Atty Dkt No. UOM 0272 PUSP

S/N: 10/602,910

Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2006

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 24. (Cancelled).

- 25. (New) A method for the generation of cracks on a coated polymer substrate, comprising:
  - a) supplying a multilayer article comprising a polymer substrate, a brittle layer adjacent said polymer substrate, and a coating layer adjacent said brittle layer on a side of said brittle layer remote from said polymer substrate;
  - b) exerting a strain on said multilayer article such that cracks develop in said brittle layer, exposing surfaces in said cracks having no coating layer thereon.
- 26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises unidirectionally stretching said multilayer article.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises bending said multilayer article.
- 28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises stretching said multilayer article in at least two directions.

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- 29. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said polymer substrate comprises a polyorganosiloxane elastomer and said brittle layer comprises an oxidized polyorganosiloxane.
- 30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said coating layer comprises a hydrophobic coating.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said coating layer comprises a first, hydrophobic coating, and a second coating on said first coating, said second coating comprising a substance which prevents attachment of biological organisms.
- 32. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising coating said exposed surfaces with a crack coating which has different surface characteristics than said coating layer.
- 33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said crack coating comprises at least one protein.
- 34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said oxidized polyorganosiloane layer is formed by oxidizing a surface of said polyorganosiloxane substrate.
- 35. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of exerting a strain comprises stretching said multilayer article in at least two directions sequentially.
- 36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein following stretching in one direction, a crack coating is applied to cracks generated, prior to stretching in another direction.
- 37. (New) The method of claim 25, where said coating layer is a surfactant layer.

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38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said surfactant is a non-ioinic polyether surfactant.